

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 1, 2004, has been received, its contents carefully noted, and the applied citations thoroughly studied. The foregoing revisions to the claims are tendered with the conviction that patentable contrast has now been made manifest over the known prior art. Accordingly, all rejections tendered by the Examiner in the above-referenced Office Action are hereby respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

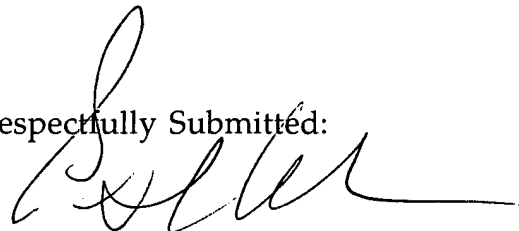
It is believed that the foregoing revisions to the claims are within the metes and bounds of the recently articulated Supreme Court *Festo* case, in that all equivalents susceptible to capture have been retained in that one skilled in the art, at the time of this amendment, could not have reasonably be expected to have drafted a claim that would have literally encompassed any other equivalent.

Vitus, cited by the Examiner, has limited relevance, particularly in light of the foregoing revisions. As amended, claim 1 provides for wheeled, rolling contact against a boat hull, facilitating rescue.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon further consideration, the Examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner call undersigned to expeditiously resolve same.

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Respectfully Submitted:



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